

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Seven Nights

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



AT through Shenandoah NP, average 15 miles per day

AT - One way

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 120.6 miles

Trip Description: Entire AT through Shenandoah NP: Wolfe to Denton shelters

Entry: 105 MP - Rockfish Gap/South Entrance

Exit: North AT/Tom Floyd Boundary

Map(s): PATC #9 - 11 All Districts

North District; East side; Route # 601

Day One

Campsite: AT (3F) Jarman Gap - Rockfish Gap * - backcountry

12.5 miles

Hike north on Appalachian Trail (AT) 12 miles from Paul C. Wolfe Shelter.

Obtain your free and required backcountry permit at the self-registration station on the AT just north of Rockfish Gap.

Turn left toward Calf Mountain Hut, hiking 0.3 mile.

Camp at the hut.

Day Two

Campsite: AT (3D) Doyles River - Blackrock Gap* - backcountry

13.5 miles

Return to the AT, 0.3 mile and hike north 13 miles.

Turn right to Blackrock Hut, hiking 0.2 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Three

Campsite: AT (3B) Simmons Gap - Loft Mt. * - backcountry

13.5 miles

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile and hike north 13.2 miles.

Turn right to Pinefield Hut, hiking 0.1 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Four

Campsite: Saddleback Mtn Trail - backcountry

14.6 miles

Return to the AT, 0.1 mile and hike north 14.1 miles.

Turn right toward Saddleback Trail and hike 0.3 mile to South River Maintenance Hut (no camping at or near this building) to pick up water at the spring, then continue hiking another 0.1 mile or more to find a place to camp.

Day Five

Campsite: AT (2C) Hawksbill Gap - Lewis Spr * - backcountry

18.6 miles

Return to the AT, 0.4 mile and hike north 18 miles.

Turn left to Rock Spring Hut, hiking 0.2 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Six

Campsite: AT (1D) Beahms Gap - Rt 211 * - backcountry

15.7 miles

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile and hike north 15.3 miles.

Turn right to Pass Mountain Hut, hiking 0.2 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

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Campsite: AT (1B) Gravel Spr - Elkwallow Gap * - backcountry

13.7 miles

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile and hike north 13.3 miles.

Turn left to Gravel Springs Hut, hiking 0.2 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Eight

18.9 miles

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile and hike north 18.7 miles to the Denton Shelter.

Notes

Start at Paul C. Wolfe Shelter, entry into Shenandoah National Park at Rockfish Gap.

Finish at Denton Shelter, exit Shenandoah National Park at Possums Rest.

Unless you are a thru-hiker, do not plan your trip along the AT at Shenandoah NP from mid-May through mid-July! While the AT in the park is always busy, this is when the north-bound thru-hikers come through Shenandoah and there will not be any camping available at the huts.